

**SALINE COUNTY EXTENSION
2005 Extension Council**

University of Missouri Extension programs in Saline County are directed by an elected Council of twelve citizens. Also, the Saline County Commission, Farm Bureau and Marshall city government can appoint representatives to the Council. The council has done an outstanding job of bringing leadership and management to the Saline County Extension Center.

Extension improves people's lives

University of Missouri Extension serves people by extending research-based knowledge and presenting top quality educational programs to address the high priority needs of citizens at the local level. University of Missouri Extension faculty and staff help individuals and organizations turn knowledge into action, thus improving the quality of life for all.

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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to Noon
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

****New location!***

University of Missouri Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or status as a Vietnam era veteran in employment or programs.

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS

CHAIR: **David Perkins**
VICE-CHAIR: **Wayne McReynolds**
SECRETARY: **Ron Duvall**
TREASURER: **Leigh Ann Graves**

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Candee Aull
Paul Crews
Ron Duvall
Mary Ann Gilpin
Larry Glavin
Leigh Ann Graves
Sam Igo
Wayne McReynolds
Paul Mizer
David Perkins
Debbie Wallace
Diana Woods

APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Norvelle Brown Saline County Commission
Dick Hassler Saline County Commission
Tadar Wazir City of Marshall
Kaye Wright Farm Bureau

Council meetings are held monthly at the Extension Office in Marshall. The meetings are open to the public and meeting notices are posted in accordance with the Sunshine Laws.

TO: Saline County Citizens
University of Missouri Extension Administration

University of Missouri Extension work in Saline County is about helping individuals and families deal more successfully with change – and the rate of change has never been greater. The need for Extension has never been greater.

2005 has been another positive and dynamic year for our work:

- The partnership between the Saline County Commission, Extension Council and staff has never been more effective and productive. We enjoy working together and collaborating on challenging projects to improve people's lives.
- Saline County Extension is on the move. Thanks to the support of the County Commission, we are now located at 353 S. Lafayette in Marshall. The building has generous meeting room space, is handicapped accessible and better meets the needs of the people we serve.
- Over 2600 hours – that's the number of hours Saline County people spent in workshops and seminars, learning how to increase their financial management success.
- 2,000 young people, or roughly 37% of the Saline County child population, participated in some form of 4-H youth development program.
- 4-H Volunteers in Saline County contributed almost 25,000 hours to the program in 2005.
- We had 16 new farm families to honor with the distinction of Saline County Century Farm. For the second year in a row, Saline County led all Missouri counties with the most farms applying.
- 1550 young people and adults learned quality nutrition information through the Family Nutrition Education Program.
- You can see the results of the Tree Resource and Improvement (TRIM 1) project on the Courthouse lawn. TRIM 2 is already approved for the Saline County Justice Center grounds.

Our enclosed annual report for 2005 gives additional highlights of Extension's work in Saline County this past year. We think you will be impressed with all that has been accomplished.

The Extension Council, County Commission and Extension staff look forward to working together **and with you** to improve people's lives in Saline County in 2006.

David

David Perkins
Saline County Extension
Council Chair

Becky

Becky Plattner
Saline County
Presiding Commissioner

Cynthia

Dr. Cynthia E. Crawford
Saline County Extension
Program Director

Human Development



Home Front Newsletter for National Guard Families

The Home Front monthly newsletter was started in the spring of 2004 and continued through April 2005 to support guardsmen and their families with their one-year deployment. The Army emphasizes that soldiers who know that their family's needs are being met perform better in the stress of deployment. Families whose needs are met during deployment are in a better position to be supportive of their deployed family member and will be in a better position to welcome and support their returning soldier. The newsletters are posted at: <http://missourifamilies.org/homefront/>

SGT. Eric Fizer and SGT. Donald Johnson work closely with the newsletter team. SGT. Fizer writes, "I think that the Home Front newsletter provides positive information for our soldier's families and shows their families they are not the only ones that have problems and challenges, as a result of their loved ones serving our country. There are a lot of great articles and general information for the families, and I know the soldiers benefit from the articles, as well."

"Extension has always been about the business of providing quality information to individuals and families, when they need information most. It is our professional honor to draw from Extension's knowledge and research base in such areas as family financial management, human development, single parenting, community resources, networking and more to deliver user-friendly, critical information to military personnel and their families," says Cynthia Crawford.

Focus On Kids

Eighty-nine divorcing parents attending the Focus on Kids class in Saline County the first 11 months of 2005 rated the program as outstanding. *Focus on Kids* is a 2 ½- to 3-hour parent education program provided by University of Missouri Extension in collaboration with the circuit court system. The program is designed to help divorcing parents understand: the importance to children of sustained, supportive, and nurturing involvement by



both parents; children's and adolescents' developmental needs, abilities, and common reactions to divorce; strategies to help children cope with divorce; and learn of community resources that are available.

Evaluation documented that the program:

- Helps parents understand how children are affected by a divorce, separation, and not living with both parents.
- Helps parents understand the benefits to children, if parents work cooperatively with each other.
- Helps parents understand the needs and reactions of children of various ages to divorce and separation.
- Provides useful ideas about reducing stress for children.

The average age of attendees was 33 years and the parents had lived together over 17 years. Saline County had 109 divorces in 2003 (latest data available) and has a higher divorce rate than the state, with a rate of 4.8 per 1,000 population, compared to a state rate of 3.9.

Managing Stress

More than 100 Saline County individuals received training through workshops on managing stress in 2005.



Those working in the area of direct human services are exposed to high levels of stress. Turnover in the human services field is very high, partly due to the demands placed on providers.

Human Development Specialist Art Schneider presented two two-hour workshops on May 20, 2005 for Missouri Valley Community Action Agency staff. On July 18, he presented a program designed to meet the needs of Court Appointed Special Advocates, composed of 15 volunteers who work with abused children for at least one year. In addition, Saline County Program Director Cynthia Crawford arranged for Schneider to do a managing stress program October 19 for 32 members of the Saline County Interagency Council. Twenty-four evaluations were completed.

Evaluation showed that many learned techniques to better relax and deal with stress, including techniques they didn't know about before. Some mentioned red wine, journals, using humor, regular and enough sleep, taking time for yourself, being better prepared, working smarter, establishing and maintaining a routine, eating a balanced diet, exercising, avoiding alcohol & drugs, and learning to say "no," as strategies they are incorporating to better manage stress.

Education to Improve Family Financial Success

Over 2600 hours – that's the number of hours Saline County people spent in workshops and seminars, learning how to increase their financial management success.

Stretch Your Dollars

Thanks to the partnership of a number of people and funders, Stretch Your Dollars is a free three-session series that we presented 6 times in Saline County in 2005, for a total of 18 classes. Classes will continue in 2006.



Team teachers/collaborators are from the EFNEP program, Community Action and Family Support Division. 100% of the county financial institutions support and actively recommend the classes.

Participants use the information to improve their lives (and the lives of others) by:

- Sharing the information
- Paying more attention to money coming in and going out
- Living it and telling it
- Making a financial plan and sticking to it
- Looking at the food calendar that shows best buys most months
- Think about the serving sizes when I take portions of food
- Saving money!
- This is the first time I've had any money set back for emergencies.

Hispanics Stretch Their Dollars

One of the professional highlights of the programming year was the invitation to present a two-hour seminar on financial management (using Money Action Plans), and a two-hour seminar on Rent Smart for Hispanic individuals and couples enrolled in program on English as a Second Language in Marshall. Cynthia Crawford presented the information in English and then paused while it was interpreted and repeated in Spanish.

Information about avoiding predatory lenders, landlord/tenant law, credit, banking, etc was very important for this audience, as many were early in their residency in Missouri and the United States. Too often, minorities and the working poor are particularly

exploited by landlords and predatory lenders. Their culture often clashes with our culture's housing laws.

Following the classes, the program coordinators relayed some of the comments from participants:

- I pay more attention to my outgoing money and I know exactly where it is going.
- I put forth the effort to plan.
- My family talks a lot about goals now.
- When I shop for personal items, I can find the best deal.

One coordinator commented that there have been more follow-up class discussions after financial classes than any other topic they have covered in the classes. They have overheard class members admonishing others not to use predatory lenders and not to get a refund anticipation loan.

Advanced Directives and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

The media and political circus that surrounded the Terri Schiavo family at the end of Terri's life, provided a teachable moment for advanced directives and durable power-of-attorney for health care.

In 2005, people have come to the Saline County Extension Center to request **more than 500** copies of the booklet "Life Choices - Understanding the importance of planning now for your needs at the end of life." In addition to providing quality advanced directive and durable power-of-attorney for health care forms, the booklet also has significant discussion about communicating with family members, a life planning work sheet, life-sustaining treatments, pain management, hospice care, financial considerations and information if a person has a loved one that dies and they are a decision maker.

Working with People in Financial Stress and Crisis

The Saline County Mental Health Association sponsored a seminar on "Helping People in Financial Stress and Crisis." Eight great steps for taking financial control, positive financial counseling techniques and mobilizing community resources were presented. Approximately 50 people attended a workshop. 100% of people attending the workshop had written financial goals at the conclusion of the session.

Eight weeks after the conclusion of the series, a sampling of those attending the financial stress and crisis

session were contacted via telephone to see how they used the information.

- As you know, I'm a minister and I've repeatedly pulled out the packet of materials from the training. Sometimes I review the 8 great steps before a person in financial crisis comes in. I often refer people to your "Stretch Your Dollars" classes.
- Just because I'm well trained in my occupation, no one ever taught me about taking control of my own finances. I came to the training knowing that other people there would assume I was there to help my clients. Actually, I was there to learn how to take control of my own finances. I'm just early in sorting out the mess – however, at least I'm doing some positive things now. Before the training, I was somewhere between denial and financial paralysis.
- I have used many of the financial counseling techniques. They are really down-to-earth and practical. Thanks. It seems like I'm seeing twice as many families in my work in financial crisis and considering bankruptcy than I did even six months or a year ago. Thanks, I needed this.

College Students Learn Money Management



Thanks to Professor Virginia Zank and others at Missouri Valley College, Family Economist Cynthia Crawford was invited to speak to all 24 classes of Freshman Orientation during the 2005 college year on the topic of College and Financial Management. She met with two classes of first-semester freshmen in January and 22 classes of first-semester freshmen in October of 2005.

Over \$100,000

The value of the airtime used for the one-minute "Consumer Update" cuts is more than \$100,000 per year. KMZU radio broadcasts the Consumer Updates as public service announcements around the clock - averaging 5 one-minute cuts per day, seven days a week.

HES Educational Assistant Carol Pardeck and Consumer and Family Economist Cynthia Crawford collaborate to record 12 cuts per month, which equals 144 cuts per year.

"I am indebted to the work of Carol Pardeck, educational assistant. Her technical expertise in preparing the scripts is what makes this project possible." says Crawford.

"We honor her as she chose to retire from our work in December of 2005. We already miss her talents very much."

Radio reaches men and women of all ages and interests. The topic of money and resource management is of interest to nearly everyone.

Taxpayer Education Partnership - \$20,000 saved immediately by Saline County Families

"As a result of the partnership of Saline County Extension, we increased the number of tax returns prepared between January and April 15, 2005 to 131. It was particularly important that we reach the threshold of at least 100 returns, in order to continue having a VITA site next year. The 131 returns prepared this year compare with 85 returns a year ago. In addition, I would estimate that 75% of the returns we prepared this year were first-year returns. If I were to sum up the partnership of my office with Extension I would choose the word 'invaluable' to describe their work," says Keith Ward, Saline County Missouri Valley Community Action Agency community services coordinator.

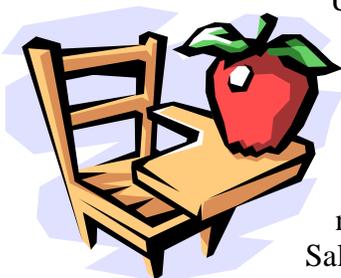
Robin Brotherton, MVCAA VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site coordinator for 7 counties, reports that Saline County had the most returns filed by VITA in the 7 counties they serve - even though Pettis, Ray and Johnson Counties are larger counties than Saline. "Interestingly, the 1/3 statement stuffers that Extension worked hard to distribute through major employers in Saline County got wide distribution. Our VITA site had calls and requests from as far as Springfield and Columbia."

What is the economic significance of the Saline County VITA site? "I estimate that families, conservatively, would have averaged \$150 in preparer's fees and refund anticipation loans," says Brotherton. That's nearly \$20,000 saved by the 131 families that came to VITA."

University of Missouri Extension in Saline County marketed the VITA site and then developed tax payer education opportunities for families participating in the site. Each family received a take-home packet about financial management education and was also encouraged to attend a Stretch Your Dollars educational workshop series.



Nutrition Education



University of Missouri Extension (UME) Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached low-income participants with nutrition education in Saline County, during 2005.

FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness.

Nutrition education for youths provides information in kid-friendly terms and lessons with hands-on activities. Activities include opportunities for taste-testing healthy foods and practicing skills that lead to good health. Education for adults includes nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and food resource management.

During 2005, over 1500 youth were served through schools and community groups by Stacy Robb, nutrition program assistant. An additional 50 adults received nutrition education classes by Norma Chitwood, nutrition program assistant. Classes were delivered to the following locations:

- Benton Elementary
- Gilliam Elementary
- Hardeman Elementary
- Orearville Elementary
- Slater Elementary
- Sweet Springs Elementary & Library

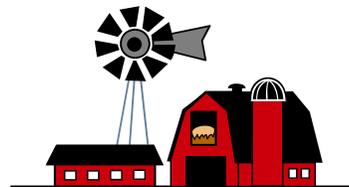
Business, Community and Leadership Development

Century Farm Families and Extension Donors Honored

Over 100 attended the second annual Century Farms and Leadership recognition night. The Saline County Commission and Saline County Extension Council work closely together to host the

event. Saline County had the most new Century Farms (16) of any county in the state in 2005. We also had the same distinction in 2004. We all worked together to recruit applications.

Only positives resulted from this event – including excellent newspaper and radio coverage. Over and over, research and best practices indicate that community celebrations and leadership recognition are very important.



Challenge Course for Marshall Seniors and International Students

Rachel Miles, Cynthia Crawford, National Guard members and the Saline County Career Center faculty worked together to design and conduct a morning's challenge course for 175 Marshall high school seniors and international students. The nine stations of the challenge course focused on skills and attitudes that often make the difference between outstanding employees and average employees – including team work, creative decision making, communication skills, trustworthiness and listening skills.

“The challenge course is a great set of equipment that our Extension Center is fortunate to have. We can apply the activities to a number of settings including leadership development, board training, professional development, career development and more,” comments Rachel Miles.

Support for Saline County United Way

Saline County United Way has been key in supporting 4-H programming, since the start ten years ago. In recent years, the United Way has also supported family financial education in the county. In 2005, Extension offered to reciprocate with support for United Way.

Saline County Extension developed and presented two three-hour workshops with co-presenter Mary Ann Gilpin for all Saline County United Way agencies. The workshop had 3 objectives: how to

strengthen United Way applications, how to evaluate United Way projects and financial management for nonprofits. Fifty people attended the workshop.

As a follow-up to the workshop, Intern Angie Fletcher offered to do free, confidential financial reviews of United Way agencies. The reviews were free and met United Way's requirements for an audit of the previous year (even though the work being offered wasn't nearly as extensive as an audit). Her financial review checked for the 14 standard practices and judged whether the group's financial management exceeded the standard, met the standard or did not meet the standard.

Extension Center is Training Site

Saline County Extension is actively working with Missouri Valley College, Missouri Valley Community Action, Experience Works and Marshall Public Schools to be a training site for students of all ages.

In 2004-2005, Rhonda Alspaw, Jeanette Clark and Angie Fletcher completed their degree work at Missouri Valley College by doing a semester work and learning at the Saline County Extension Center. Alspaw and Clark were human services majors, while Fletcher was an accounting major. A total of 12 high school students have job shadowed in the Extension Center at various times during 2004-2005. We asked them to fill out an evaluation at the end of the day.

- I learned that MU Extension is an outreach program and helps many people. I used to think that a person would have one basic job, but now I know that everyone helps and does a lot of things.
- I will tell people what an excellent office this is and how nice the people are.
- I learned that being nice to others and keeping a good attitude always helps. Running a business isn't easy and it takes a lot of hard working, dedicated people.



FISH Philosophy

“The Family Support Division invited the Extension Office to present our FISH Philosophy training for staff development. We have had them do motivational training for the local staff in the past and have always had excellent results.

It is truly a win-win situation when we team with the Extension Office and we look forward to other training sessions for our staff,” says Kathy Walker, Saline County FSD Director.

The FISH Philosophy has four aspects: 1. Have fun, 2. Choose your attitude, 3. be there (be focused), 4. Make their (your customers, your co-workers) day.

Sustainable and Resilient Leadership in Human Services

All Saline County Family Support Division (formerly known as Division of Family Services) staff in Saline County came together for a morning retreat to focus on sustainability and resiliency in human services in April. Dr. Cynthia Crawford served as facilitator. Using fun pictures of animals, Crawford relayed research about sustainable and resilient leadership to those attending.

The group then processed how they individually, and collectively as a staff, could promote sustainability and resiliency in the workplace.

100% of the staff participating had written goals at the conclusion of the retreat. They included:

- To be more content with what we do have!
- Be more positive
- Smile when I can do nothing else. Smile more often.
- To remember that others are affected by my attitude and that I can make a difference.
- Celebrate that I am doing something right!
- Hope is powerful.
- Don't make things harder than they have to be. Show the inner me more. Be more confident in myself.

Agriculture and Horticulture Programming Highlights

Women in Ag and New Ag Landowners

CM regional extension specialists teamed-up with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts to conduct a one-day conference with educational programming directed toward women ag landowners, heirs of ag land, absentee landowners, and new owners of agricultural land.

This event was held at the Malta Bend high school. People from the Saline, as well as surrounding counties, utilized this event to increase their knowledge and abilities to manage their ag land holdings. The event's focus was on negotiating equitable leases, estate planning, grain marketing, becoming suddenly single, landscaping, farming the internet, updating your USDA records, and a wide array of conservation and wildlife presentations.

This event attracted a diverse audience. Evaluations revealed the participants gained knowledge, and they planned to implement this knowledge in the operation and management of their agricultural land.

Golden Age Farming

The Golden Age Farming program was developed by specialists in the Central Missouri Region. The program targets farmers 55 years old and older. Topics covered included: Estate Planning, Retirement Issues, Succession Planning, Leases, and Making Modifications to your work environment to accommodate for physical changes that come from aging. The program was piloted in Marshall and Columbia in 2005.

Participants were asked what they had learned that would be useful in their operations, and they included the following: safety techniques, leasing agreements, estate planning features (especially as it relates to tax implications), following up on what we started two years ago, set goals and tell others about them.

Participants indicated that they already had begun their estate planning, did a trust ten years ago and will now update it, and had developed a net-worth statement. Some participants also indicated that they plan to implement written leases, better lease agreements, safety issues and will set more definite goals. Those that took the course indicated that they appreciated the information and would stay in touch with extension specialists.

Master Gardener

The Master Gardeners of Saline County were very active. There are about 17 members active in the group with total volunteer hours for 2004 and 2005, together, of approximately 2150 hours. With an average value of \$12.00 per hour, that amounts to nearly \$26,000 in value to the community. Projects included Saline County Courthouse square TRIM project and educational classes, Fitzgibbon hospital assisted living center plant center, and a historical garden at Van Meter State Park. There were also some programs for schools in the area.



Ag Lender Seminar - Boonville

Financing and Management in Agriculture, Ag Lender Seminar was held in Boonville in November. Lenders from ten counties were in attendance including lenders from Saline County.

Lenders indicated they will use the information in a variety of ways including: sharing with clients, sharing with other staff members and personal use. The information presented will be shared with many farmer clients to help them to make better-informed decisions with the goal to become more profitable.

Asian Soybean Rust

Asian soybean rust was a topic of great concern in 2005. Asian soybean rust had been discovered in southeastern Missouri in 2004, and there existed a potential for Asian soybean rust for the 2005 crop year. Soybean rust is a very destructive disease that can spread rapidly and result in up to 80% yield loss.

Fifteen informational meetings were conducted in this part of the state, including meetings in Saline County with approximately 875 producers attending. Producers learned how to identify the disease, what conditions were conducive for the disease and various control measures and management strategies for the disease, should it arrive in the area. Producers at the meetings commented that the information indicated that soybean rust could be managed and that a catastrophe was not a certainty.

Sentinel plots are research plots established to provide a source of material to scout for the arrival of soybean rust. The plots consist of earlier planted soybeans that would be more susceptible to infection by rust spores, because of their planting date and site. The plots

were scouted at least a weekly and twice weekly as we moved later into the growing season. There was one sentinel plot established in each of Chariton, Carroll and Saline counties. No symptoms of soybean rust were detected in these plots in 2005. We will establish similar plots in 2006 to monitor the situation closely and keep producers informed.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Private pesticide training was conducted to certify and recertify private applicators to use and apply pesticides correctly. Thirty-eight Saline County farmers attended training that included the proper use of chemicals, calibration of equipment, chemical storage and chemical safety.

Saline County Winter Cattlemen Series

The Saline County Cattlemen's Association and University of Missouri Extension teamed up in 2004 and 2005 to offer a series of educational meetings directed towards beef producers in Saline and surrounding counties. The first meeting had approximately 30 producers learn about distillers grains (DDG) from the new ethanol plant in Malta Bend, MO. The second educational meeting was the marketing outlook in 2005 for beef, corn, soybeans and wheat. Approximately 15 producers participated in the meeting in which Dr. Ron Plain, Extension State Agriculture Economics Specialist, explained several aspects of how the beef cattle markets were and are being affected by Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), the Atkins and Lo-Carbohydrate diets, world beef demand and supply and cheap feed prices. This increases producer awareness and helps them make more informed decisions on how to market and raise their cattle in the future.

"Dealing with Dystocia (Calving difficulties) and newborn calves" was given by Dr. Richard Randle, State Extension Veterinarian from MU's campus. Dr. Randle discussed how producers should prepare themselves for the calving season and when they should call the veterinarian onto their farm.

Dr. Rob Kallenbach, State Extension Forage Specialist, talked about spring pasture management and inter-seeding grasses and legumes into pastures". Fifteen producers from Saline and the surrounding counties participated in the educational opportunity. Dr. Kallenbach, discussed fertilization, rates, depths, frost seeding of legumes and seeding dates of grasses, along with pasture forage strategies.

Show-Me-Select Heifer, Inc. –

Marshall/Fenner Farms along with Lamine Cattle Company entered 50 Simmental-Angus heifers into the Show-Me Select Heifer program in February of 2005. The Show-Me-Select Heifer program was funded and developed by a University Extension Development Grant and Dr. David Patterson in 1998. Recently the program has been privatized into Show-Me-Select Heifer, Inc. and is now overseen by a State Board of Directors. Marshall/Fenner and Lamine Cattle Company chose to market through Kingsville, MO to sell 38 head of their Sim-Angus heifers, with all lots of their cattle averaging \$1380.00.

Helping Livestock Producers get Through the Drought of 2005

The summer of 2005 will long be remembered as one of the hottest and driest summers since the 1980's. Temperatures soared well over 100 degrees between June and August, with very little rain. Producers started calling the University of Missouri Extension Offices when the corn growers figured out there wasn't going to be much of a corn crop. They wanted to know what could be done to salvage something out of their corn - silage and green-chop were two alternatives that were suggested to producers. However, drought-stressed corn has the potential to have high nitrate levels, which are potentially toxic to livestock. Ag specialists made several farm visits to test corn for high nitrates, using dipheylamine. Most producers which Livestock Specialist Wendy Flatt worked with made corn silage from their drought-stressed corn and let it ferment for 21 days. Allowing the drought-stressed corn to go through the ensiling process before feeding it allowed most of the nitrate toxins to "burn off" into gases, which dissipated in the atmosphere.

A newsletter entitled "Drought Information" was also sent out in Saline County in late August. This was created so producers would have information in one publication. The Drought Newsletter contained information on feeding by-products, using drought-stressed corn silage, ammoniating crop residues such as wheat straw, using corn stalks during the winter and other drought-related topics. Producers found the newsletter helpful in their decision-making to get through the drought of 2005.

Spider Mites

Spider mites were a problem in our area in 2005. Our scouting identified the problem and informed local

agricultural suppliers and agricultural producers of the problem. Within 72 hours of our notification, over 2500 acres were identified as having an economic level of insects and were treated in a timely manner.

Ag Connection Newsletter – The newsletter provides information on a monthly basis on various production topics for crops and livestock. Newsletters are mailed, as well as available on the website.

Integrated Crop Management Website – Updated weekly with time-sensitive information for crop and pest management. This provides a source of local information on local conditions and issues.

Weekly radio updates on KMZU in Carrollton and KSIS in Sedalia provide current and timely information for crop and pest management for Saline County listeners. Together, we reach producers in approximately 50 counties. This avenue of information dissemination is very useful in reaching producers with information on urgent topics such as disease or insect infestations. This was very useful in 2005, when the spider mites were discovered in soybeans.

Field Days – University Extension partnered with several local agricultural suppliers on fall field days. We provided information on the local disease and insect situations and management strategies. Information was also provided on crop and fertility management. There were approximately 127 agricultural producers at the various field days.

Individual consultations consist of visiting a location to observe the situation. These are often needed to correctly identify a problem. Two hundred eighty-nine consultations were conducted in 2005. These consultations not only allow for better diagnosis of situations, but facilitates the producer learning how to diagnose and manage production system.

Two hundred fifty-seven requests for information were supplied on topics for both the agriculture producer and the non-agriculture producer.

FORAGES

Two grazing schools were conducted in 2005 in Chariton County and Saline County. Producers learned management intensive grazing and qualify for cost share on a management intensive grazing system. Approximately 65 people qualified through these two classes for cost share assistance.

Fast Facts

In the academic year 2004-2005:

- A. _____ Saline County people attended the University of Missouri-Columbia.
- B. _____ Saline County people did an independent study.
- C. _____ Saline County people were reached by MU Direct
- D. _____ Saline County people were trained through the Fire and Rescue Institute.

Answers:

- A. 82
- B. 3
- C. 11
- D. 53



Saline County 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2005 4-H in Saline County

A community of 2,698 youths learning leadership, citizenship and life skills

One of every 10 Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a Missouri 4-H program in 2005.

Ongoing participation in extracurricular activities, such as 4-H, can lead to long-term payoffs. Regardless of family background, studies find that teens who consistently participate in extracurricular activities from eighth through 12th grade are 70 percent more likely to attend college. The College Board's Trends in Higher Education Series highlights benefits to individuals and society, when young people attend and complete college. For example, over their lifetime, college graduates will earn an average of \$2.5 million, or \$1 million more than peers with high school educations.

A study commissioned by the Ohio State University explored the economic impact of Extension programs and offers one way to measure the impact of 4-H programs. Assuming that a 4-H experience motivates just 10 percent of Missouri's 105,463 4-H members to receive a bachelor's degree, 10,546 degrees would be earned. The College Board study suggests that this would mean an additional \$19,100 in earnings per year for those with a degree. Increased annual earnings for just this group would be nearly \$201.4 million!

Sources: Zaff, Jonathan F., and Kristin A. Moore, Angela Romano Papillo, Stephanie Williams. "Implications of Extracurricular Activity Participation During Adolescence on Positive Outcomes." *Journal of Adolescent Research* (Vol. 18, Issue No. 06, November 2003). Technology Partnership Practice Battelle. "Ohio State University Extension: A Generator of Positive Economic Impacts for Ohio." January 2005 <http://extension.osu.edu/about/econimpact.php>. Baum, Sandy, and Kathleen Payea. "Education Pays 2004: The Benefits of Higher Education of Individuals and Society." College Board, Trends in Higher Education Series. www.collegeboard.com

10 4-H clubs

4-H participants = 265

Saline County 4-H clubs offer long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from aerospace and arts to veterinary science and sport fishing. Clubs also involve children and teens in camping, educational trips, and community service.

4-H has a long history of providing youth with opportunities to learn and value service to others -- with the third "H" in the 4-H Pledge stating, "I pledge my hands to larger service." Although it builds upon the concept of community service, service learning is far more structured. It is integrated into the

4-H program and commands a more sustained involvement. This summer, 15 local club members joined 28 others on a service trip to South Dakota. Journal entries supported the premise that youth are encouraged to give back to the larger community through volunteering and service, "*It seems that when you work together as a team, you can really get something done.*"

4-H special-interest programs

4-H participants = 1,280 *

Saline County 4-H special-interest programs include conferences, distance learning programs, day camps and other educational activities, such as school-age care. They often reach youths with special needs, such as those living in group homes or youths who are physically or mentally challenged.

One such example is Food & Fitness Camp. The annual camp gives youths ages 12 to 14 a taste of food- and fitness-related careers, along with information on nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Participants had the following comments: "Preparing dinner was the best part." "I had a lot of fun, and learned a lot about all the foods we cooked." "This taught us how to manage our food intake and making sure it is healthy."

4-H school programs

4-H participants = 455 *

Saline County 4-H school enrichment programs are short-term educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Most are led by teachers or 4-H volunteers. The most popular 4-H school program is embryology. Children have a natural curiosity about living things in the world around them. Building on this curiosity, students can develop an understanding of biology through direct experience with living things, their life cycles and their habitats. With the help of the Morning Optimists of Marshall, almost 400 students witnessed the miracle of nature, as they watched chicks hatch in their classroom. When teachers were asked what they considered the strengths of the project to be, here were some responses. "I appreciate the child-centered participation using the provided curriculum." "The students always enjoy this unit a great deal; they also learn a lot." Finally, "Thank-you to all volunteers who provide this project. We love having it available!"

*Duplicates not removed

4-H members supported by 119 youth and adult volunteers

Time valued at \$377,220.48 (119 volunteers x 208 hours x \$15.24 per hour)

Volunteers create, support and are part of the 4-H community. National statistics suggest that the average volunteer contributes 208 hours per year. Valuing their time at \$15.24 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Saline County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$377,000 in 2005!

Source: The Independent Sector. "Giving and Volunteering in the United States." <http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/gv01main.html>

The Saline County Commission is absolutely central to the success of Extension efforts in Saline County. It has been our pleasure to work with the 2005 Saline County Commissioners:

Norvelle "Brownie" Brown
 Dick Hassler
 Becky Plattner

Already Planned for 2006
 In Saline County

- The Saline County Extension Council, Regional Extension Council and University Extension Staff will complete a programming needs assessment and plan of work process.
- Women and Ag Conference in Malta Bend – April
- Stretch Your Dollars classes in February, March, April, June, September and November.
- Homebuyer Education Classes – New! – two days a month in Saline County.
- Financial Success Classes – twice a month in Saline County.
- Pesticide applicators license renewals
- Saline County Fair – youth exhibits
- 4-H summer camps
- Nutrition education in Saline County school districts
- Master Gardeners
- Monitoring soybean rust
- Monitoring spider mites
- Radio work
- Newspaper education articles
- Educational partnerships with:
 - 4-H Council
 - Cattlemen's Association
 - FSA
 - Lighthouse Shelter
 - Marshall Chamber of Commerce
 - Missouri Valley College
 - Missouri Valley Community Action
 - Saline County Interagency Council
 - School Districts
 - United Way
 - And more.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION STAFF
SERVING SALINE CO

December 2005

Office Manager:

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Office Manager

Regional Administration:

Mark Stillwell

Regional Director

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Administrative Associate 1

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Agronomy Specialist

Wendy Flatt

Livestock Specialist

Parman Green

Ag Business Specialist

Community Development:

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Nutrition Program Assistant

Julie Royse

Family Nutrition Education Coordinator

Art Schneider

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4-H/Youth Development:

Rachel Miles*

4-H Youth Development Specialist

* Headquartered in the Saline County University of Missouri Extension Center, Marshall MO

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
 **Extension**

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